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REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

VIA ECFS

June 26, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: **REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT** – *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90;
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42

Request that Information Submitted to the Commission be Withheld from Public Inspection Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §0.459 and 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4): Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan included in FCC Form 481

Confidential Financial Information – Subject to Protective Order in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Before the Federal Communications Commission

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with the annual reporting requirements of 47 C.F.R. §§54.313 and 54.422, Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Taylor Telephone or the Cooperative), Study Area Code 442151, is submitting a completed FCC Form 481 to the Commission via its Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) in WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 11-42. The Cooperative, by its authorized representative, hereby requests confidential treatment of two attachments to its FCC Form 481: (1) the five-year service quality improvement plan and (2) the financial annual report, both of which were redacted in the ECFS submission. The request for confidential treatment of the five-year plan is being made pursuant to section 0.459 of the Commission's rules and Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The request for confidential treatment of the financial annual report is being made pursuant to the FCC's November 16, 2012 *Protective Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.* These attachments contain competitively sensitive data that Taylor Telephone Cooperative maintains as confidential and does not normally make available to the public. Release of this information would have a substantial negative impact on the Cooperative.

Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan

Pursuant to section 0.459 of the Commission's rules and Exemption 4 of FOIA, Taylor Telephone requests that the text and data extracted from its five-year service quality improvement plan be withheld from public inspection because it contains competitively sensitive commercial and financial information that the Cooperative keeps confidential. Public availability of this information would have a substantial negative impact on the Cooperative.

In accordance with section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, the following information is provided in support of this request:

- (1) Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought:

Attachment to Line 112 of FCC Form 481 – Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan. Specifically, confidential treatment is sought for all information in the five-year plan related to the Cooperative's access line counts, existing broadband capabilities, and its network investment plans through 2019 that will improve service quality for its customers.

- (2) Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission:

The information was submitted in WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 11-42 as an attachment to FCC Form 481- the Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form. Section 100 of FCC Form 481 requires incumbent local exchange carriers receiving high cost support to attach a five-year service quality improvement plan, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§54.202(a)(1)(ii) and 54.313(a)(1).

- (3) Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged:

The five-year service quality improvement plan contains granular information on the Cooperative's access line counts and existing broadband capabilities as well as detailed plans for financial investments in its network through 2019 to improve service to subscribers. This is closely guarded, privileged information that the Cooperative does not make publicly available.

- (4) Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition:

Broadband is subject to increasing competition in the areas served by rural, rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carriers (RLECs). Virtually all RLECs face competition from one or more wireless Internet service providers. Most RLECs also face competition from at least one other wireline broadband provider such as a larger cable Cooperative, who will typically seek to "cherry pick" the lower cost portions of the study area. In addition, all RLECs face competition throughout their territories from satellite broadband providers.

- (5) Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm:

Disclosure of the information contained in the five-year plan would provide competitors with detailed, granular information regarding the Cooperative's access line count, its existing broadband capabilities, and its strategic plans for network investments. This would give competitors invaluable